



WASHINGTON STATE
Department of
Children, Youth, and Families

Media Statement

May 6, 2019

Contact: Debra Johnson

360.789.7926

Secretary Hunter's M.D. Statement

Olympia—Today, Ross Hunter, Secretary of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families released the following statement, “As I stated last year, in this case from 2015 the agency did not meet our expected standard of care. We take our responsibility to protect at-risk children in Washington seriously and expect our staff to do so as well. Since the time of this case we have implemented several oversight steps to improve child safety, including formal “Aiden’s Law” reviews of policy compliance and near fatality reviews with external reviewers. We use the insights from these reviews to improve practice.

“Aiden’s law (RCW 26.44.290) took effect on July 24, 2015. The law was not in effect at the time M.D.’s father abused her.”

###